Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-3 (canceled).

Claim 4 (currently amended): A method for detecting cardiac ischemia in an individual suspected of suffering from ischemic cardiovascular disease comprising:

a) measuring a level of ~~a~~ brain natriuretic peptide or N-terminal probrain natriuretic peptide in picograms of ~~natriuretic~~ peptide per milliliter of blood in a first blood sample from an individual suspected of suffering from ischemic cardiovascular disease;

b) subjecting the individual to an exercise stress test with myocardial perfusion imaging wherein a dual isotope, rest-stress protocol is used;

c) measuring a level of ~~the~~ brain natriuretic peptide or N-terminal probrain natriuretic peptide in picograms of ~~natriuretic~~ peptide per milliliter of blood in a second blood sample from the individual immediately after completion of the exercise stress test; and

d) comparing the actual picogram per milliliter of blood level~~s~~ of ~~the~~ brain natriuretic peptide or N-terminal probrain natriuretic peptide in the first and second blood samples;

e) determining an absolute level of change in the actual picogram per milliliter of blood level of brain natriuretic peptide or N-terminal probrain natriuretic peptide; and

f) diagnosing ischemic cardiovascular disease in an individual by identifying the absolute level of change in the actual picogram per milliliter of blood level of peptide as being greater than 10 picograms per milliliter of brain natriuretic peptide or as being greater than 5 picograms per milliliter of N-terminal probrain natriuretic peptide. ~~wherein an increase in the actual picrogram per milliliter of blood level of the natriuretic peptide in the second blood sample as compared to the first blood sample of as small as 9 picrograms per milliliter~~

~~of blood is indicative of cardiac ischemia in the individual.~~